

# One of Rural America's Greatest Challenges

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"Methamphetamine is the worst drug that has ever hit America. A ferociously addictive drug that is spreading ... it's hard to imagine overstating the magnitude of the meth problem.

-- U.S. Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey

# One of Rural America's Greatest Challenges

#### Stopping the drug epidemic in rural areas

- 8 % of Nebraska's budget, over \$291 million, is spent on substance abuse related costs
- 91% of that amount is spent on burdens to public programs through Medicaid and welfare programs
- 6% goes for regulation and compliance
- 3% goes for prevention
- These amounts don't include local and federal costs

Source – National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse study

# Teenage Drinking

- Nebraska ranks third in the nation in teenage binge drinking
- Nebraska is second in the nation for teenagers that reported driving after drinking
- Nebraska is tied for first place in the number of teenagers that reported riding with a drinking driver
- 27.3% of Nebraska teens reported having had their first drink prior to age 13
- 53% of Nebraska teens reported that they currently use alcohol – 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation
- Heroin and meth addicts almost always started with teenage binge drinking

## Teenage Drinking

 70% of teenagers in Nebraska who drink have obtained alcohol from an adult

38% of Nebraska teenagers drank with an adult present

 – 21% of teenagers in Nebraska drank at home with the permission of a parent

 Source – Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey By Nebraska HHS

- Each meth addict commits several crimes each year to support their habit
- Meth treatment admissions doubled from 1997 to 2001
- The percentage of federal sentences for meth related drug convictions in Nebraska is five times the national average

What is meth?

- Chemical name :(S)-N, a-dimethylbenzeneethanamine; d-N-methylamphetamine

What are the ingredients in meth?

Many common household products including:

- Over-the-counter cold and allergy medicines containing pseudoephedrine
- Iodine
- Ammonia
- Starter fluid or de-icer
- Drain cleaner or rubbing alcohol
- Lithium batteries

#### What is the history of meth?

- First created in Germany in 1887
- Used widely during WWII by the Nazi and Japanese Armies
- Japanese Kamikaze Pilots were documented to be high on meth
- Major challenge in post war Japan
- Biker Gangs in California after WWII began to distribute meth
- Today's meth is hundreds of times more powerful

## Meth is commonly referred to as:

- speed
- chalk
- crystal
- crank
- glass

What are some signs of a meth lab?

- Smell
  - Ammonia
  - Ether
- What to look for
  - Chemicals
  - Ammonia
  - Containers
  - Cooking pots

#### Environmental effects of a meth lab

- Meth production leaves behind five to six pounds of toxic waste per pound of meth produced
- Toxic by-products contaminate sites where meth is produced, posing serious health and environmental hazards to those nearby
- The average cost to clean up meth labs often exceeds \$4,000

- What does meth look like?
  - Typically a white, odorless powder that dissolves quickly in water
  - Another form of meth is clear chunky crystals referred to as crystal meth or ice
  - Also may be in the form of small brightly colored tablets, referred to as YABA

• What does meth look like?





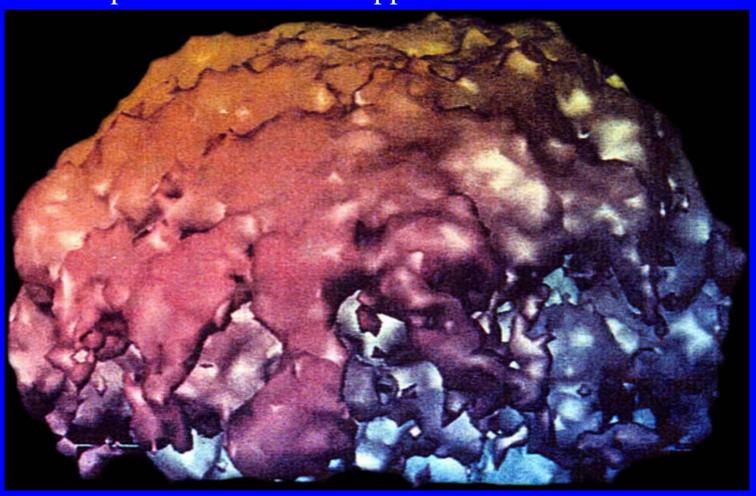
• How is meth used?

- Injection
- Snorting
- Smoking
- Orally

- What are the consequences of meth use?
  - Behavior changes
    - Psychotic behavior, paranoia, aggression, anxiety, fatigue, depression, confusion, insomnia, hallucinations, mood swings and delusions
  - Health changes
    - Stroke, brain damage similar to Alzheimer's disease and epilepsy, weight loss and death

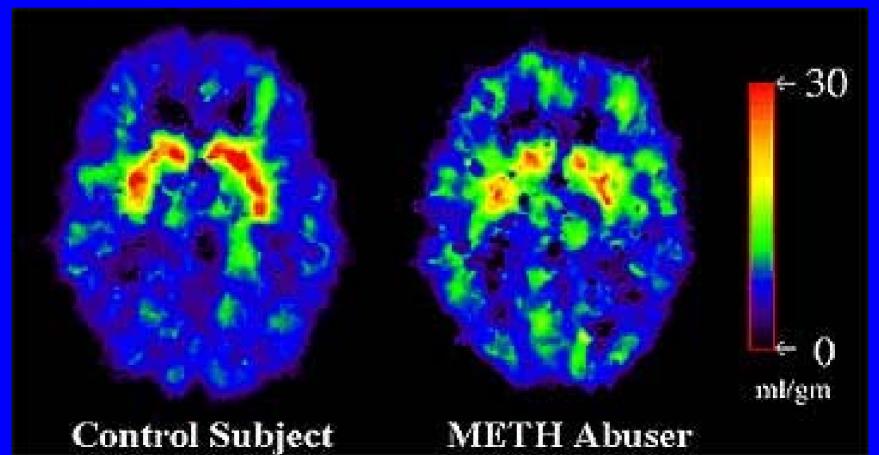
## Effects of Meth on the Brain

Dead spots in brain tissue appear as brown mush



## Effects of Meth on the Brain

Light colored spots in the brain scan are areas of dead tissue similar to an Alzheimer's patient creating a "Swiss cheese" brain incapable of normal function



### Effects of Meth on Teeth

#### Your teeth on Meth



A 23 year old male's teeth and gums after 3+ years of Meth use.

#### Facts about your teeth on Meth

Extremely painful teeth & gums

Bad taste from infection and nasty smell

Infected teeth cause an unhealthy body

Lack of sleep due to painful teeth

Feel bad about yourself

Unable to eat or chew many solid foods

Jawbone loss

Gum disease

Costs big bucks to restore or replace teeth

Rapid decay of teeth

Loss of teeth



What's left from a Meth user after 3 years of Meth use.

#### Meth eats you

Weth is a powerfully addictive drug that "eats"
your body from the inside out.
For a meth user, by the time the teeth look like
this.

brain cells have been "eaten" and permanently damaged.

As meth flows through the blood to the heart, muscles, bones and teeth, it eats cells deposits toxins and poisons and destroys healthy tissues.

## What happens after they pull the Meth eaten teeth?



## So you think dentures are the solution?

When teeth are pulled, the jawbone will start to slowly shrink over the years.

Dentures sit on the bone ridge.

The disadvantage of getting a denture at a young age, like 23 years old, is by the time you're 60 your bone ridge will have shrunk beyond the point of wearing a denture functionally, thus leaving you a denture cripple.

## What do you know about teeth and dentures?

Answer the following questions true or false

Your blood flows through your teeth.

When your blood needs calcium it first will take it from the jawbone.

Natural teeth chew with 150lbs of pressure.

> Gum tissue for dentures can only support 5 to 25lbs of pressure.

With dentures you cannot bite or chew with your front teeth.

Dentures need to be replaced every 5 years.

Dentures only function at 10% of the efficiency of your natural teeth.

> If you have all your teeth pulled then you may instantly look at least 10 years older.

if you answered true to all the above you are 100% correct.



## 10 Years of Meth Use



## Effects of Meth Before Meth



Source – Nebraska State Patrol

# Effects of Meth After Two Years



Source – Nebraska State Patrol

- What to do if you suspect a meth lab
  - Call the police
  - Do not attempt to stop the chemical reaction
  - Do not turn any electrical switches, this could trigger an explosion

### Methamphetamine Related Anhydrous Theft



Source – Nebraska State Patrol

# Methamphetamine Lab



Source – Nebraska State Patrol

# Dismantling a Methamphetamine Lab



Source – CA Department of Justice

## Methamphetamine Lab Explosion Results

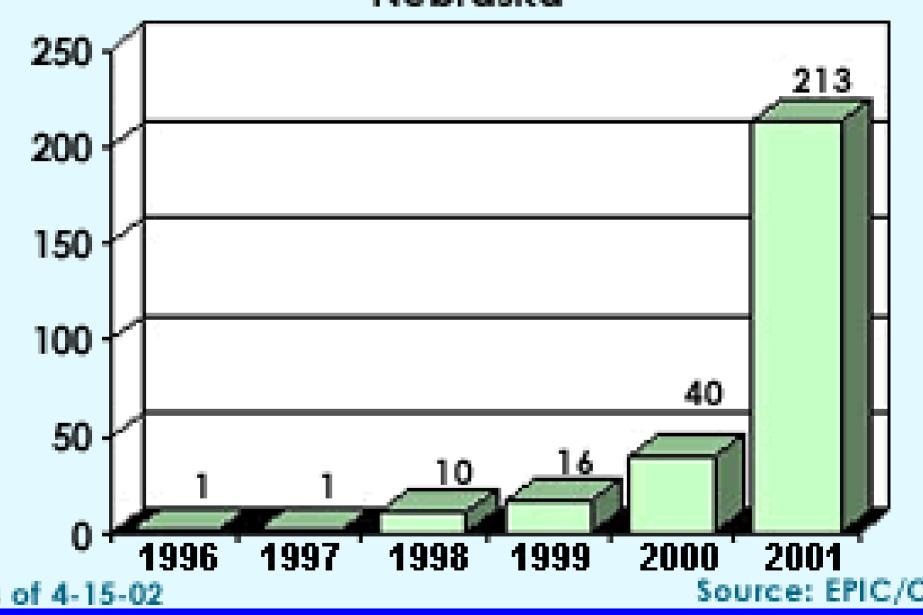


Source – Nebraska State Patrol

## Can It Happen Here?

- It is happening here!
  - October 30, 2003: KHAS Television reported that two pounds of pure methamphetamine were found in a Hastings bust
  - November 19, 2003 Omaha World Herald reported man killed in shootout with Nebraska State Patrol near Wallace was facing charges of possessing meth
  - November 25, 2003: AP story reports Otoe County Sheriff wages war on meth labs
  - December 1, 2003: AP story shows Nebraska prison numbers show more women using meth

# Methamphetamine Lab Seizures --Nebraska--



Source - National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse study

### You Can Make A Difference!

- A small group of dedicated people can change the world.
  - Think Before You Wink
  - Learn about the issues in your area
  - Work with local law enforcement and drug educators
  - Lew Hunter and 700 people in Nelson

### You Can Make A Difference!

- If you are a teenager
  - Remember, it is your choice. It is your body. It is your future.
  - If you have challenges, talk to someone.
- If you are a parent, talk to your kids.
  - Be involved and watch for signs

Dropping grades Missing money

Switching friends Withdrawal

• Do you drink or use drugs? Your example speaks louder than words

### You Can Make A Difference!

- SICA (State Incentive Cooperative Agreement)
  - A state and federal partnership
  - Several million dollars in federal funds over the next three years to local community coalitions to implement substance abuse and prevention strategies
  - Contact Laurie Sutter at Nebraska's Health and Human Services: (402) 479-5573 or www.nebraskaprevention.gov

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